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Presentation outline

Intro: Homelessness Among School Aged Children

* What if you did not have a place to go home to after school?

Or could not afford food?

What if the streets were the closest thing you could call home?

How would you feel?

* Well today we are going to talk about how homelessness among children can affect their health, social life, education and the programs that are out there for homeless students.

Background info:

* 23% of people who are homeless in the United States are under 18 years
* The largest number of homeless children is represented in Elementary school children
  + But Many secondary homeless students may not be accountable because they
  + Hide being homeless
  + Dropped out of school or
  + Do not have access support services

Health:

* How does being homeless affect the health of school age children?
* ½ of the population of homeless children experience 2 or more illnesses per month
* Homeless children are more likely to experience certain health problems.
* they are **4x** more likely to experience hospitalized asthma
* they are **3x** more likely to experience respitory infections
* they are **6x** more likely to experience infectious disease
* they are **3x** more likely to experience chronic problems
* they are **5x** more likely to need extended care post birth
* they are **3x** more likely to experience illnesses each month
* Asthma
  + If a homeless child has Asthma and then becomes sick with another illness that child is at a three times higher risk of being hospitalized
* Lead poisoning
  + Homeless children are more likely to become diagnosed with lead poisoning
    - Some **Symptoms of lead poisoning** are
      * Abdominal pain
      * Constipation
      * Fatigue
      * Anemia
      * Nerve damage
      * Altered brain function
    - If lead poisoning **Effects the brain** it could cause
      * Seizures
      * Coma
      * Long exposure can led to kidney, brain, and reproductive organ damage.
      * Death in severe cases
* Nutrition

Homeless children are more likely to have

* + Unhealthy weight
  + Poor nutritional habits
    - They are getting Less fruit, vegetables, breakfast, and consumption of milk
  + And they are participating in less physical activity
* Homeless students are at high risk for :
  + Substance abuse
  + Sexual risk
  + Self-harm
  + Delinquency
  + victimization
* 16% of older homeless children have one or more chronic health problems such as
  + Cardiac disease
  + Peripheral vascular disease
  + Endocrine dysfunction
  + Neurological disorders
* Homeless students tend to lack access to health care
* You see a lot of Behavioral and Emotional problems such as
  + Peer disturbances
  + Anxiety or depression
  + Lower ratings of psychosocial development
  + Difficulty in developing peer relationship (also maintaining those relationships) so they have trouble making and keeping friends